

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

**Please replace the paragraph on page 8, lines 9-10 with the following amended paragraph:**

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EXEMPLARY  
PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION**

**Please replace the paragraph on page 14, line 20 though page 15, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:**

In accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present ~~invention~~ invention, to extract the watermark from the two halftone images  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ , the binary operator  $\wedge$  may be applied to each pair of pixels  $(A_1(i,j), A_2(i,j))$  resulting in the extracted watermark image  $W$ . In other words, the  $(i,j)$ -th pixel of  $W$  is given by  $W(i,j) = A_1(i,j) \wedge A_2(i,j)$ .